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Message Text

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47
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 105795
P R 211250Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9063
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5667

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM ASMARA, HEREWITH REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 : GDS
TAGS : PINS, ET, CASC
SUBJ : TENNECO FIVE

REF : ASMARA 368

FROM SEBASTIAN

FOLLOWING SUBMITTED FOR FURTHER TRANSMISSION OR USE AS
APPROPRIATE :

1. MEETING BETWEEN TENNECO REPS AND GOVGEN PER PARA 8
REFTEL CANCELLED FOLLOWING MORGHANI'S FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS
TO VICE MIN SOLOMON TECLE AND TENNECO LIAISON COLONEL
YESUWORK NIGHT MAY 20 AND MORNING MAY 21. MORGHANI
SAID HE TOLD TECLE THAT HE MERELY ASKED TENNECO REPS FOR
GUARANTEE. MORGHANI SAID THAT, PROVIDING TENNECO READY OFFER
SUCH GUARANTEE IN FORM SOME SORT OF ESCROW PAYMENT TO BE HELD
FOR EXAMPLE BY GOVGEN, HE NOW WILLING PROCEED. GOVGEN/SOLOMON
TECLE THEREUPON SENT WORD TO TENNECO THAT LATTER STOOD LOSE NOTHING
BY ACCEEDING TO MORGHANI'S SUGGESTION AND, ACCORDINGLY,
MEETING REQUESTED BY GOVGEN PER PARA 8 REFTEL NO LONGER
SEEMED NECESSARY. TENNECO REPS RESPONDED THAT MORGHANI
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TOTALLY DISCREDITED IN THEIR EYES AND THEY NOT REPEAT NOT

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PREPARED PURSUE ISSUE.

2. WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US?

A) MORGHANI STILL TRYING WITH IEG/GOVGEN AND LATTER SEEMS ONLY TOO HAPPY KEEP HIM IN PICTURE BECAUSE AS LONG AS HE REMAINS THERE IEG CAN STAY IN BACKGROUND AND ONUS IS ON TENNECO FOR FAILURE USE MEN OF PUTATIVE INFLUENCE.

B) TENNECO LIAISON COLONEL YESUWORK'S LOYALTIES SEEM DIVIDED BETWEEN IEG AND TENNECO. HE SEEMS KNOWLEDGABLE AND HARDWORKING. YESUWORK FEELS CONFIDENT THAT AMERICANS AS WELL AS CANADIANS BEING HELD BY SEPARATE CAPTOR BANDS OF ASSAORTA (LINEAGE OF BANI AMIR TRIBE). YESUWORK HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SHEIK MOHAMED SALAH AHMED OF THE ASSAORTA WHO RESIDENT ASMARA. SHEIK MOHAMED REPORTEDLY SENT RUNNER TO CAPTORS SOME TEN DAYS AGO. RUNNER EXPECTED BACK MAY 21 OR 22 WE ARE TOLD. YESUWORK FEELS SHEIK MOHAMED WILL BE PREPARED MEET WITH TENNECO REPS ONCE RUNNER IS BACK. YESUWORK ALSO TRYING ARRANGE FACE TO FACE MEETING BETWEEN ELF AND TENNECO REPS IN "NEUTRAL AREA" NEAR MASSAWA IN CASE THIS COULD PROVE USEFUL. LATTER INITIATIVE IN EARLY STAGES.

C) MANAGER ASMARA RAILROAD, GETCHEW MEDHANI, FEELS TENNECO SHOULD SIT BACK AND LET ELF CALL SHOTS. HE SENT THREE-FOUR MEN "IN" FROM KEREN AND AILET (NEAR WHERE MEN BELIEVED HELD). ONE OF HIS KEREN RUNNERS, HE SAYS, RETURNED LAST WEEK BRINGING WORD THERE HAD BEEN MEETING OF ELF LEADERS WHO HAD DECIDED TO RELEASE MEN IN THEIR OWN GOOD TIME "WHEN THEY HAD SERVED THEIR PURPOSE". MEN WERE IN GOOD SHAPE.

D) THEN THERE IS FRANCO. FRANCO IS SON OF RAPHAEL DEL FRANCO, WEALTHY ITALIAN ENTREPRENEUR. FRANCO CAME TO SEE BURTCHAELL MAY 20 AND SAID THAT HIS RUNNER HAD RETURNED WITH LIST OF NEEDED GROCERIES AND SUPPLIES IN BILL ROGERS HAND. FRANCO GAVE RUNNER $100 ETH TO PROCURE SAME. RUNNER ALSO TOLD FRANCO THAT ELF LEADER OF CAPTOR BAND BACK AND ANGRY THAT CAPTIVES" APRIL 17 LETTERS HAD BEEN HANDED TO MORGHANI. LEADER QUOTED AS SAYING MORGHANI NO LONGER THEIR MESSENGER
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AND THAT LETTER TO BURTCHAELL CONFIRMING THIS EN ROUTE AND DUE ASMARA NEXT FRIDAY (MAY 24). ACCORDING FRANCO, MORGHANI HAD COME TO HIS HOME MAY 19 AND HAD SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN REMOVED AS MESSENGER AND "FARANJI" NAMED LUCIANO SUBSTITUTED.

3. MY THOUGHTS :

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A) SITUATION IS CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF WESTERN ACTIVISM FRUSTRATED BY TRANDITIONAL ORIENTAL CONTEXT.

B) ELF COULD LET TENNECO KNOW WHAT ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE. IT HASN'T. HENCE WE MUST ASSUME THAT TENNECO'S PROBLEM IS LOOSE ORGANIZATION OF ELF CAPTOR BANDS AND POSSIBLY, THOUGH BY NO MEANS NECESSARILY, FAILURE THOSE IN CONTROL OF CAPTIVES TO DECIDE ON THEIR COURSE. IT COULD BE, OF COURSE, THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO MAKE A POINT WITH MERE FACT OF MEN'S CAPTIVITY BUT IF SO WHY NOT SPELL IT OUT?

C) CAPTORS' LOOSE ORGANIZATION MAKES EXERCISE OF EXTERNAL INFLUENCE (VIZ. KHADAFI, ET AL) DIFFICULT. THEREFORE, WE APPEAR BE LEFT WITH TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE AS POTENTIALLY MOST USEFUL VISIBLE ALTERNATIVE FOR EXERCISING ANY DIRECT INFLUENCE ON CAPTORS. THAT BRINGS US BACK TO SHEIK MOHAMED OF THE ASSAORTA.

D) MOGHANI WILL KEEP TRYING INSERT HIMSELF INTO GAME FOR MONEY. HE SAID BE SO ILL CONSIDERED THAT TENNECO'S UNWILL-INGNESS DEAL WITH HIM (AT LEAST FOR NOW) SHOULD MAKE NO REPEAT NO DIFFERENCE. DEVELOPMENTS SET FORTH PARA 1 ABOVE CAN BE READ AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IEG/GOVGEN CONTINUE ATTACH TO HIM, HOWEVER. THEY SEEM UNWILLING/UNABLE BECAUSE VERY WEAK THEMSELVES TO TREAT HIM AS HE APPEARS TO DESERVE. MORGHANIYYA IS PROBABLE REASON. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IN TRADITIONAL EYES THE DESCENDANTS, HOWEVER RAUNCHY, OF BROTHERHOODS' FOUNDING FAMILY CONTINUE HAVE PIZZAZZ. THIS COULD PROVE COMPLICATING FACTOR.

E) MEANWHILE, POLITICAL FACTORS, VIZ. TENNECO'S NEED LEAVE NOTHING UNDONE EFFECT RELEASE THEIR EMPLOYEES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULTING INCAPACITY ACCEPT PASSIVE SIT-AND-WAIT STANCE COMPELS ALL CONCERNED KEEP TRYING. HENCE, KASSALA GAMBIT LIKELY BE PLAYED OUT TODAY/TOMORROW. IT UNLIKELY DOES ANY HARM AND MAY CONCEIVABLY ACHIEVE SOMETHING.

F) IN ALL THIS USG MUST CONTINUE AS BEFORE PROVIDING DISCRETE SUPPORT FROM BACKGROUND FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT ELF BAND LIKELY PERCEIVE USG INVOLVEMENT AS ADVERSE TO THEIR INTERESTS AND BECAUSE IEG'S OWN WEAKNESS AS WELL AS ITS INTERNAL DISORGANIZATION PLACE NARROW LIMITS ON WHAT WE CAN DO DIRECTLY WITH ELF HERE. BY SAME TOKEN,IEG LIKELY REMAIN UNWILLING/UNABLE DO MUCH TO HELP. IN SHORT, BURDEN WILL HAVE TO REMAIN LARGELY WITH TENNECO.

G) CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND UN STRUCTURE NOT MUCH

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BETTER PLACED. THEY ARE ALSO LIMITED BY PROBLEMS CITED
PARA 3(B) ABOVE, IEG'S WEAKNESS, ETC. MOREOVER, INFRASTRUCTURE
THEY COMMAND IN ERITREA LIMITED BY COMPARISON TO USG.
THEY ARE, ON OTHER HAND, NOT HANDICAPPED BY IMAGE IN ELF
EYES OF PRIME SUPPORTERS IEG WHICH ATTACHES TO US.
PERRY
UNQYOTE WYMAN

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